

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 1, 4, 5, 28 and 31 and have canceled claims 2, 3, 29 and 30. No new matter has been added to the application by virtue of the present amendment.

Therefore, claims 1, 4-28 and 31-34 are pending in the subject application by virtue of the present amendment. It is respectfully requested that the pending claims 1, 4-28 and 31-34 be considered and passed to issuance.

Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Meier et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,884,242) and claims 2, 5, 16-20, 23-26, 29 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meier et al. in view of Park et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,198,982).

Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 28 to include the limitations of allowable and intervening claims 2, 3 and 29, 30, respectively. Thus, Applicants believe that claims 1 and 28, as amended, and dependent claims thereupon are in condition for allowance.

Therefore, Applicants believe that the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a) have been overcome.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants wish to express their appreciation to the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. The Examiner has stated that claim 27 is allowed and that claims 3-4, 6-15, 30 and 32-34 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any

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intervening claims.

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the limitations of allowable claim 3 (now canceled) and intervening claim 2 (now canceled), and independent claim 28 to include the limitations of allowable claim 30 (now canceled) and intervening claim 29 (now canceled).

Therefore, Applicants believe that independent claims 1 and 28, as amended, and dependent claims thereupon are in condition for allowance.

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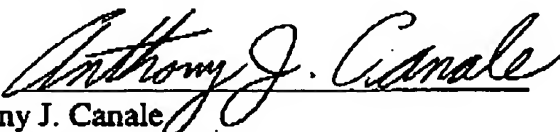
CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing remarks, all of the claims now presented are believed to be in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding objections be withdrawn and this application be passed to issue at an early date.

The Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the number listed below if, in the Examiner's opinion, such a phone conference would aid in furthering the prosecution of this application. No fee is due by virtue of this amendment. However, if the PTO determines that a fee is required, please charge Applicants' Deposit Account, 09-0456.

Respectfully Submitted,

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